

THE EVENING WORLD'S
"SWOPPERS' COLUMN" IS
A Directory of Bargains
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SEE
THE
SUNDAY
WORLD

The Most Important Article from His Pen Since "Looking Backward."

LAST EDITION
NO, SIR, NOT A HELL AFLOAT!

Commander McCalla Denies the Charges
of Cruelty to His Crew.

He Did Cut Down Fireman Walker,
but "It Was Legitimate."

Arrangements for the Disposal of
Minister Pendleton's Body.

Rain was pouring down in torrents this
morning when an EVENING WORLD
reporter rowed out to the United States
Ship-of-War Enterprise, anchored off
West Twenty-third street, and climbed
up her rust-stained sides to interview
Commander B. H. McCalla regarding the
terrible charges of cruelty made against
him by the members of his crew.

A blue-coated orderly took the scribe's
card to the Commander's cabin and a
minute later announced that Capt. McCalla
would be pleased to see the reporter.

The latter was greeted with smiles on the
part of the gold-laced Commander.

"What have you to say, Captain, about
the charges of cruelty your crew make
against you?"

"I have nothing to say officially," he
plied, in a confidential way; "but, be-
tween us, they are absurd and false."

"In what way?" asked the reporter.

"Well, they are exaggerated and highly
colored, and in many ways untrue. I
am charged with the death of a fireman
Walker, with the sharp edge of your
sword and inflicted a terrible wound. Is
that true?"

"Yes, it is true. I admit it. I did
strike the man. He came on board drunk
and disorderly. He had done so a dozen
times previously. I was awakened by the
uproar, and ordered Walker to be brought
up, I ordered him to keep quiet. He
shouted: 'I'm drunk, and I don't care a
dam for any United States captain afloat or
ashore. I'm a rebel, I am, and I haven't
got half enough fighting spirit to be
struck by you, but the wound was only a
slight one.'"

Here Commander McCalla touched an
electric button and his ring brought
Surgeon Cumberland G. Herndon into the
cabin.

"Surgeon, bring your log and show
this gentleman your official report of that
Walker occurrence."

Surgeon Herndon returned a moment
later, and read from the "book" this
description of the wound: "It was
one and a half inches long, extending
from above downward on the occiput
(back of the head). It cut the scalp
down to the periosteum (covering of the
bone)."

The Commander then brought out the
sword with which he cut the man. It was
a regulation weapon, with dull edges.
To produce such a wound as described
by the surgeon it must have been wielded
with great force.

"Was there no other remedy, Captain,
except to cut the man's head with a
sword?"

"Oh, that is perfectly legitimate, per-
fectly legitimate, I assure you," he re-
sponded, hastily. "It was a good lesson
for that man who had no trouble with the
man. He deserved a few days afterwards
at Southampton."

"But it is said you hit him several
times with your sword, and that he had
fits afterwards?"

"That is not so. Is it Surgeon?"

"No, sir," replied Dr. Herndon.

"Regarding the suspension of Ensign
Kline, Captain, it is said that you did
that out of pure spite?"

"It is not so. Mr. Kline was asleep at
his post on the bridge, and for such a
breach of duty was suspended."

"But it is claimed that he was not
asleep."

"I awakened him myself," said the
Captain, lowering his voice, and assum-
ing a "that-settles-it" sort of air.

"The men say that he was never
observed on board the ship. How about
that?"

"Untrue," said the Commander. "All
holidays were observed, they must be,
by the rules of the service."

"But they say you imprisoned them
for petty offenses, and took away their
pay?"

"All that I can say is that discipline
must be observed on board this ship, sir."

"How about last Thanksgiving day,
when the men were sent ashore on the
coast of Africa and required to drill?"

"They say the surf was very heavy and
that it was impossible for them to return,
and that you went off and left them with-
out any provisions."

"I did send them ashore to drill, for
such opportunities are scarce. While
they were there an angry gale arose, and
I was compelled to go away. I
ordered them by signal to go to Centa,
the nearest town, some fifteen miles
distant."

"I went to Gibraltar, and returned to
Centra the next day, but they had not
arrived. I then went back and found
them on the beach where I left them."

"They say that the march was an
arduous and dangerous one, for the country
was filled with wild beasts and band-
its."

"All I can say is that those men thrive

of them, and they were well armed. They
were ordered to go, and should have done
so."

"Even at the risk of their lives?"

"Yes, and I have only been ashore
four times since October, 1897."

"I was at a picnic at that place, and I
saw Playfair. But nothing of the
kind you refer to ever happened. Her
wagon tongue was broken, and I fixed it
for her."

"And you did not secure another car-
riage and go tearing through the town in a
wild gallop?"

"No, sir."

"Did the English coachman at Algiers
set upon you and beat your officers while
you escaped?"

"If I escaped all right, that was good
for me. I was the comment he made on
this question."

"Then you make a general denial of
everything that is charged against you.
Is that so?"

"Yes, except the Walker case. I admit
that I cut him, but it was legitimate."

Commander McCalla then invited the
reporter to go forward and interview the
crew. He insisted, however, on know-
ing what they said.

The crew, without an exception, af-
firmed the truth of the stories printed in
the morning papers. The reporter asked
a dozen times this question: "Are the stories
printed true?"

"Every word of them," was the ear-
nest reply, "but you have not heard the
half."

"One manly young fellow said, 'I thank
God that I have only four months more
to serve on this ship. Our lives have
been terrible. Not a holiday has been
observed, and I have only been ashore
four times since October, 1897.'"

"That man (meaning Commander
McCalla) is a perfect fiend, and he has
made this ship a hell."

"I should be very sorry to see him
at the slightest offense."

"Once, off Zanzibar, the day was very
oppressive and hot. We were stretched
out wherever we could get in the shade,
for there was nothing to do, and the ship
was going along under steam."

Suddenly the Captain appeared. Our
reporter seemed to see a flash of red
flag does a bull, for he immediately
roared out:

"Look at the lazy loafers lying
around here. They are getting too fat
and have too much to eat."

"You are not worth one-sixteenth
part of a hard biscuit, none of you. Get
up there and shake out those sails."

"Not a man could be found who would
speak a good word for the Commander. They
say he is cruel, exacting, tyrannical
and overbearing."

Admiral Braine, Commandant at the
Brooklyn Navy-Yard, said this morning:

"I know nothing of the state of affairs on
the Enterprise except what I have read in
the papers, but I feel that there are always
two sides to a story."

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electric button and his ring brought
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arduous and dangerous one, for the country
was filled with wild beasts and band-
its."

"All I can say is that those men thrive

MRS. COVERT NOT INVOLVED.

Dying Tessie Made No Statement
Implicating Her Mother.

Betrayer Bassett's Shady Career in
New Haven—Jamaica's Tragedy.

JAMAICA, L. I., Feb. 28.—The condi-
tion of Miss Tessie Covert is reported to
be unimproved this morning, and Dr.
Wood, who is attending her, has little
hope that she will recover. The girl's
constitution, he says, has been hopelessly
sapped by the terrible experience
through which she has passed.

Excitement in the village has not been
allayed by the arrest of John M. Bassett,
whose identification by the dying girl as
the cause of her ruin was reported in
THE EVENING WORLD yesterday. He is
confined in a cell at the town hall, and
obstinately refuses to make any state-
ment regarding himself or his connection
with the Covert family.

The dramatic features of the situation
are intensified by the sensational rumors
which have gained currency. The Coroner
refuses to make public the details of the
girl's ante-mortem statement, on the
ground that they are too horrible for pub-
lication, and if made known the ends of
justice might be defeated or materially
hindered.

Reports of more arrests to follow are
rife, and hints that persons near and dear
to the victim of malpractice are deeply im-
plicated are being spread. Nothing
definite can be obtained from the officials,
but every day on the qui vive for most
startling developments.

It is known that Bassett must have had
access to the state of affairs on the
Enterprise, and that he was in the vicinity
of all persons implicated was un-
doubtedly stated by the girl to Coroner
Everett, and there is no chance that any
guilty person can escape. Meantime
the people of the village are congratulat-
ing each other that the chief instrument
of the young lady's downfall is behind
the bars.

Coroner Everett said to an EVENING
WORLD reporter this morning that there
was nothing to be gained by any further
statement to implicate her mother, as he
was intimated in a morning paper, and he
does not intend to arrest Mrs. Covert un-
less there is positive evidence against her.

"When will you begin to investigate
the rumor?" was asked.

"Well, I have found various alterations
and will endeavor to find out just how
friendly Mrs. Covert and Bassett were."

"Then at the inquest, Monday night, I
will be ready to go on with it," he con-
cluded.

Mr. Covert was not to be found about
town, and Mrs. Covert would not be seen.
Little can be ascertained concerning
Bassett's habits or antecedents. He is
about forty years old, good-looking, with
dark curly hair, and one of the kind
often designated as "a woman's
man."

At 171 Broadway he is little
known. Mr. Fuller, of the Pulverizer
Company, denies that Bassett had de-
parted from there, and says he was only al-
ready by his mail sent there. Mr. Fuller,
however, said he had never known any
one so friendly to his character.

Bassett, it is learned, came from New
Haven about three years ago. He had
formerly been engaged in real estate
brokerage there, though not doing much
business. He was always very fond of
women's society, and his name was con-
nected with several very shady stories
arising from his flirtations with married
women. It is said he has been married,
but was divorced about twelve years ago.
He did not read the paper except that it
was an affidavit, and knew nothing of its
contents.

"Are you quite sure she signed the
affidavit in your presence?"

"Certainly, I was right there and saw
her do it."

On Trial for Wife Murder.

ST. CHARLES, Mo., Feb. 27.—Very little
progress was made to-day in the examina-
tion of C. F. Vail, charged with murdering
his wife on the day last April. The
case was continued to to-morrow.

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AFTER BOOKSTAVEN'S HEAD.

The Assembly Committee Begins
Work on the Flack Case.

Expert Proof of Forgery in the
Flack Divorce Papers.

The Judiciary Committee of the Assem-
bly, which has come to town with au-
thority to investigate the conduct of
Judge Bookstaver, of the Court of Com-
mon Pleas, with reference to the notori-
ous Flack divorce case, were all on hand
at the Court-house at 11 o'clock this
morning, ready to begin business at once.

Assemblymen Milo M. Acker, of Steu-
ben, is the Chairman of the Committee,
and his associates are L. B. Johnson, of
Wyoming; George E. Coons, of Chautau-
que; Rufus T. Peck, of Cortland; J. S.
Whipple, of Cattaraugus; Israel T. Deyo,
of Broome; Nevada N. Stranahan, of
Oswego; George W. Green, of Orange;
Alonso B. Coons, of Schoharie; J. D.
Henderson, of Herkimer, and Calvin J.
Huson, of Yates.

The big room of the General Term of
the Supreme Court, which has been re-
served for the use of the legislative in-
vestigators, was well filled with a throng
of interested spectators some time before
the hour of assembling arrived.

Judge Bookstaver was not present at
the session, but he was represented by
his counsel, DeLoe McCurdy and Almon
Goodwin, of the firm of Vanderpool,
Green and Cuning, of which the Judge
was formerly a member.

The counsel for the Committee is ex-
Judge Edward Countryman, of Albany.

Mr. Acker called the Committee to
order at 11.30, and the members all took
their places behind the long Judge's
desk. The only absentee was Assembly-
man Peck.

The first witness called was Samuel
Jones, the present Clerk of the Court of
Common Pleas.

At the direction of Judge Countryman
the witness produced the "Order Book"
for the first order, which was intro-
duced in it in reference to the Flack case
was made on June 10, 1893.

"It reads: 'Mary A. Flack, et al., James
A. Flack, et al., vs. James A. Flack, et al.,
for divorce.' The second entry was made on Aug. 13,
1893, which was made under the same
title, with the further words: 'Order
vacating judgment.'"

"Between these two dates there was no
entry in the 'order book' with reference
to the Flack case. Another book contain-
ing record of forces was also produced,
which also had an entry about the Flack
divorce."

"Are these all the records that your
office possesses in regard to the Flack pro-
ceedings?" asked Judge Countryman.

"They constitute all that are at present
in the office," he replied.

"What do you mean by that?"

"All the other records in the case were
turned over to the District Attorney by
my predecessor in office."

"Who was your predecessor?"

"Nathaniel Jarvis, Jr."

William J. Hogan, of Troy, N. Y., an
expert in handwriting, testified that he
had been called in to examine some of the
signatures in the Flack papers.

"I have found various alterations and
will endeavor to find out just how
friendly Mrs. Covert and Bassett were."

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EXTRA
SHOT IN THE HEAD

An Ex-Congressman Fired
Upon by a Newspaper
Correspondent

In the Corridor of the House
at Washington.

A Murderous Affair of This Afternoon
at the Capitol.

Intense Excitement Among Legislators
and Visitors.

(SPECIAL TO THE EVENING WORLD.)
WASHINGTON, Feb. 28.—1.45 P. M.—
In the corridors of the House,
just now, ex-Congressman Taubee
was shot through the head by Charles
Kincaid, correspondent of the Louisville
Times.

There is intense excitement among the
legislators and the visitors to the Capitol.
Details of the affair are not yet obtain-
able.

All is confusion.

Taubee is from Sallersville, Kentucky.

He was a member of the Fiftyeth Con-
gress.

A YOUNG TEACHER ASSAULTED.

Pretty Lizzie Cowen, of Middlebury,
Attacked on Her Way Home.

(SPECIAL TO THE EVENING WORLD.)
WATERBURY, Conn., Feb. 28.—Miss Liz-
zie Cowen, aged twenty, teacher of the
Central School at Middlebury, is in a critical
condition to-day from an assault, for which
Daniel Webster, once a reform-school in-
mate, is held.

After closing her school at dusk yesterday
Miss Cowen started to walk to her home
nearly two miles away.

About half way along the road she was
struck on the head and then seized.

She struggled and was struck again and
again with some hard object, probably a
stone.

After that she can remember nothing, but
she started Henry Atwood and his family at
7 o'clock in the evening by appearing at
their door, bleeding, ragged and exhausted,
and falling insensible on the floor.

Webster was arrested on the description
given by Miss Cowen and she has identified
him by his voice.

He takes matters very coolly, however, and
denies his guilt.

STEWART'S GOLDEN VINTAGE.

Contents of the Late Millionaire's
Cellar to Be Sold at Auction.

The sale of the wine-cellar of the late A.
T. Stewart, which comes off next Wednes-
day afternoon, will cause the mouths of
connoisseurs in choice wines to water.

There are thousands of dozen of bottles of
exquisite Madeira, sherry, Johannisberg,
claret, ports and other less aromatic
liquors.

The wines are valued at \$30,000 and it
was the desire of the Manhattan Club to
purchase the whole cellar. But some dif-
ficulty arose, and the Club will content itself
with purchasing a few dozens of the choicest
vintages and "comet year" juices.

Mr. Stewart was an expert only in dry
goods. His art gallery, his library, his
armory, all show the insatiable ignorance of
a rich man in the hands of the dealer. But
in all the collections there are the examples,
and those who have taste will find much to
appreciate in the sale.

There is no doubt that the Club would have
received much that would have been a de-
light to the members.

Judge Hillen has a tongue better edu-
cated to the subtle taste of exquisite wines
than that of Mr. Stewart. He was found at
the sale in a state of "hot
scotch." He did in private Johnnie-

BESTIR YOURSELF, COMMISSIONER, OR THERE'LL BE TROUBLE.

Secretary Windom Announces It
as the New Emigrant Station.

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